FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 021 *31 January 1986*

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Contadora Ministers To Meet Shultz, Cubans [REUTER] A 1
Amended OAS Charter Stresses Democracy [CANA] A 2

ARGENTINA

Government To Repay Oil Agency's Debts B 1
Radical Civic Union Invited to Cuban Congress B 1
Caputo Makes Official Visit to Moscow [cross-reference] B 1

BRAZIL

Sarney, Betancur Discuss Deficits, Trade D 1
Increase Expected for Brasilsat Insurance D 2
[O GLOBO 29 Jan]

CHILE

Air Force Chief Reaffirms Support for Pinochet E 1
U.S. Links Libya, Suriname to Local Terrorism E 1
Exiled Radical Leader Miranda Arrives E 1

COLOMBIA

M-19 Used Venezuelan Arms in Palace Takeover F 1
Cooperation, Trade Agreement Signed With USSR F 1
CNG Announces Expulsion of Ricardo Franco Front F 2
[EL TIEMPO 23 Jan]
Surprise Operation Rescues Kidnapped Soldiers F 3

ECUADOR

Penaherrera Returns From Trip, Comments on Economy G 1
Ministry Marks Rio de Janeiro Protocol Anniversary G 1

PARAGUAY

Police Break Up Mopoco Leadership Meeting H 1
[ULTIMA HORA 30 Jan]
PATRIA Editorial Criticizes Elliott Abrams [30 Jan] H 2

URUGUAY

Opposition Leader Ferreira Supports Accord K 1
Foreign Minister Iglesias Visits Israel [cross-reference] K 1

VENEZUELA

Lusinchi Views Oil Price Discussion as Necessary L 1
Briefs: Panamanian, FRG Ambassadors L 1

MEXICO

De la Madrid Begins Oil Talks With Lusinchi M 1
Italian Vice Minister Arrives To Discuss Trade M 1
Silva Herzog Rejects Debt Payments Moratorium M 2
Briefs: Cocaine Confiscated M 2

PANAMA

PRD Legislator Claims 'Democratic Farce' N 1
[LA PRENSA 29 Jan]
U.S. Goodwill, Assistance, Maneuvers Questioned N 1
[LA REPUBLICA 28 Jan]
Columnist Urges Indians To Accept Military Zone N 2
[CRITICA 28 Jan]
People's Party Urges Guarantee of Canal Turnover N 2
Leader on Debt, Economy [CRITICA 28 Jan] N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

GUATEMALA

Salvadoran Commercial Plane Reportedly Attacked P 1

HONDURAS

Armed Forces Chief Resigns; Resignation Withdrawn P 1
Allegedly Cites Army Corruption P 1
Interviewed by Radio America P 2
Urged To Withdraw Resignation P 7
Withdraws Resignation P 8
Armed Forces Communique on Nicaraguan Attacks P 9
[LA TRIBUNA 30 Jan]
Cabinet, Government Agency Heads Assume Office P 9

NICARAGUA

UNO's Cruz Meets Shultz, Discusses Contra Aid P 10
FDN's Bermudez on Obstacles, Strategy for 1986 P 10
[LA PRENSA LIBRE 21 Jan]
Police Suspend PCDN Meeting on Constitution P 12

CUBA

Communique on Cuba-USSR-Angola Talks Reported Q 1
Shultz, Reagan Meetings With Angolan Rebel Scored Q 3
Savimbi U.S. 'Puppet' Q 3
$300 Million Asked for Savimbi Q 4
Threat to Frontline Nations Q 4
Challenger Accident 'Warns Against Star Wars' Q 4
Foreign Delegations Arrive for Communist Congress Q 4
Southern Africans Arrive Q 4
Uruguay CP Head Arrives Q 5

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Grants Police Retirements, Promotions R 1
Price Stabilization Director Resigns 29 January R 1
Majluta Appointed PRD Presidential Candidate R 1

CARIBBEAN

GRENADA

Cuban-Educated Students Claim Discrimination S 1

HAITI

Sylvio Claude Calls for 'Civilian-Military Junta' S 1
Five Persons Killed Looting in Cap Haitien S 2
General Strike Called for 12-20 February S 2
President Duvalier's Resignation Rumored [Paris] S 3
State of Siege Expected S 4
State of Siege Approved S 4
Media Silent; U.S. Suspends Part of Financial Aid [Paris] S 4

JAMAICA

Nation Continues To Reduce Oil Consumption S 4

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

Prime Minister Wants To Discuss Trade With Reagan S 5

LATE REPORT: Further Emergency Measures in Haiti S 6
Duvalier Closes Airport [Paris] S 6
Closes Radios, Bans Publications S 6
Conflicting Reports on Duvalier S 6

CONTADORA MINISTERS TO MEET SHULTZ, CUBANS

PA301355 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0257 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Panama, 29 Jan (REUTER) -- The foreign ministers of four Latin American countries will meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, as well as with Cuban officials in an effort to revitalize the peace initiative of the weakening Contadora Group, official sources announced today. The sources pointed out that the foreign ministers of Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela are scheduled to arrive in Washington on 10 February to meet with Shultz and other ranking U.S. officials. The same foreign ministers will also hold talks with Cuban leaders in Havana. It was not immediately disclosed if the talks in Havana would take place before or after the meeting in Washington.

The four countries form the Contadora Group, which for more than 3 years has been trying to promote peaceful solutions to the Central American conflicts. Three countries in that region are involved in insurgent wars. Contadora Group officials have often stressed that no peace initiative for Central America can be successful without the active support of the United States -- the country that dominates the region -- and Cuba, which supports leftist Nicaragua.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez told the press in San Jose that Contadora officials will meet in Panama next week for a new round of talks regarding the draft of a peace treaty for Central America. There have been a series of "technical meetings" led by relatively minor officials ever since Contadora presented its first draft in September 1984. This draft was immediately accepted by Nicaragua; the other Central American countries also accepted it, one by one. However, when Washington stated its objections, its Central American allies changed their positions.

AMENDED OAS CHARTER STRESSES DEMOCRACY

FL302210 Bridgetown CANA in English 2154 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Washington, Jan 30, CANA -- High-ranking military officials from 16 American countries were told today that any change in the democratic governments of an Organisation of American States (OAS) member country by means other than free elections or popular vote would eventually be considered a violation of the amended Charter of the inter-American organization.

Val McComie, assistant secretary general of the OAS, told officials who are participating here in the annual course of the Inter-American Defence College one of the most important decisions discussed in the protocol of amendments to the OAS Charter, which was adopted last month, is that representative democracy and elected governments must be the basis for better relations among member states, as a matter of fact is the only basis for good relations among member states.

This would suggest now, said McComie, that wherever in the future you have elected governments changed other than by elections or by an expression of the will of the people, that this could be interpreted as a violation of the Charter of the OAS. McComie clarified that the protocol of amendments to the charter, approved last month, must be ratified by at least two-thirds of the OAS member states before it can take effect.

The 84 officials who participated in the OAS visit were from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. McComie said that the resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia, last month invigorated the organization and can be described as the "miracle of Cartagena" because prior to the holding of the meeting, nobody thought the objective of the meeting would be achieved.

One big step forward was the recognition that relations between states in this hemisphere can only be satisfactory so long as the member states themselves are governed by democratic governments, and this was inserted in the Charter as one of the basic principles of the Organization of American States, he stated. McComie later said that another relevant accomplishment noted at the General Assembly was the ending of the veto that was promoted by countries with territorial disputes regarding who could and could not obtain OAS membership. The organization recovered its full sovereignty over its membership, and that sovereignty is not conditional, and that the existence of any territorial difficulties is separate from the issue of membership.

McComie also indicated that important progress was made in the area of peaceful solutions to controversies. He recognized that one of the more serious obstacles to the validity of the Pact of Bogota for peaceful solutions is the fact that in a dispute, both sides must agree to bring their controversy to the OAS arena. However, he said that this situation had corrected itself due to the inclusion in the Charter of an arrangement which permits either party to take their case to the OAS Permanent Council, which will offer its good offices to the litigants involved.

Another important step, said McComie, was the strengthening of the secretary general's authority. The secretary general now also has the authority given by the General Assembly and the Charter to bring to the attention of the Permanent Council any matter which in his opinion may be considered a threat to the peace in the hemisphere, or a situation that may require a peaceful settlement approach, or any question related to development. In the area of human rights, he indicated that there is now a recognition throughout the hemisphere that if we have to insist that representative democracy is to be the rule, then the basic human rights of the individual becomes the most important question on which cooperation among states is determined.

GOVERNMENT TO REPAY OIL AGENCY'S DEBTS

PY290250 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1900 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Jan (NA) -- Energy Secretary Conrado Storani today confirmed that the government will meet Government Oil Deposits' (YPF) liabilities and said that "as of now, the company's obligation is to increase its efficiency and its productivity." YPF's debts currently stand at $4.8 billion. The official admitted that this decision involves a very heavy burden for the state, and that "it is a crucial test for the economic team, which is in a very difficult situation."

Storani explained that the company's debts reached their current level because "the company never received the loans in dollars contracted from external sources in the past, because such loans were used for other purposes. However, they were entered as YPF liabilities." The decision to meet YPF liabilities was reportedly made on 24 January during a meeting at the Olivos presidential residence. The meeting was attended by President Raul Alfonsin, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Energy Secretary Conrado Storani, Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn, YPF president Rodolfo Otero, and other officials.

RADICAL CIVIC UNION INVITED TO CUBAN CONGRESS

PY300017 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1607 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Jan (NA) -- A Cuban Embassy source today confirmed that the Communist Party of Cuba has invited the Radical Civic Union [UCR] to participate in its Third Congress that will begin in Havana on 4 February. The source also stated that the invitation has also been sent to other Argentine parties, such as the Peronists, Intransigents, Communists and other parties that make up the center left of the political spectrum. The source made it clear that the invitation had been made on a party-to-party basis and not through an emissary of Cuban President Fidel Castro, as was published in a press report. The source also denied that a Castro emissary had met with President Raul Alfonsin to talk about the stance that the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] has adopted regarding the government.

A report published today in the newspaper EL CRONISTA COMERCIAL stresses that a Castro representative assured Alfonsin that Havana "does not support, nor does it approve of the stance that has been adopted by the PCA, which is one of radicalization regarding the government." After insisting on his denial that said representatives existed, the source maintained that the only person linked to the Havana government that met with Alfonsin was Hector Rodriguez Yompart, president of the National Bank of Cuba, and they talked about the bilateral economic relations between the two countries. "The international and Latin American political situations were discussed during the meeting, but the PCA was not mentioned."

CAPUTO MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW

For coverage of the visit by Argentine Minister of Foreign Relations and Worship Dante Mario Caputo to Moscow see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 29 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SARNEY, BETANCUR DISCUSS DEFICITS, TRADE

PY310228 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 30 Jan 86

[By Francisco Roque Bararreza]

[Text] Manaus, 30 Jan (EFE) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur today made a dramatic description of the economic exploitation to which Latin American countries have been subjected and estimated the annual loss stemming from this exploitation at $104 billion. Betancur, who met here with Brazilian President Jose Sarney, said Latin American countries are losing this incredible amount as a result of the drop in prices of raw materials, of the reduction of Latin American exports, and of payment of interests on the $170 billion Latin American debt.

The two presidents met today in Manaus, in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon region, to intensify trade and to review topics of regional interest. In a joint press conference with Sarney, Betancur described as "bombs" the foreign debt and high inflation rates, which are threatening democratic, political, and social stability in Latin America. In a joint declaration, the two presidents endorsed the peace efforts undertaken by the Contadora Group, which they view as a regional effort aimed at allowing Central Americans to solve their own problems. In this regard, Betancur reported that the Contadora Group had asked Cuba and the United States to contribute to making the Contadora Group succeed.

The coffee issue was at the center of the 2-hour meeting held by the two presidents, Brazilian Ambassador to Colombia Rubens Ricupero said. According to Sarney, Betancur proposed that efforts be made to safeguard stability on the world coffee market, seeking fair prices for producers and consumers alike. Brazil and Colombia are the world's leading producers of coffee since their production accounts for 50 percent of world production.

Ricupero said the two presidents expressed interest in seeking a reasonable trade balance. Sarney recognized that for the last 5 years Colombia has not had a $1 billion deficit in its trade with Brazil, and announced that his government is interested in purchasing coal, probably petroleum, and agricultural products -- such as black beans -- from Colombia.

Betancur and his entourage arrived in Manaus at 1030 local time (1330 GMT) and departed for Leticia shortly after 1700 (2000 GMT). The presidents decided that the joint commission charged with seeking a trade balance between the two countries will meet in April in Bogota. The Antidrug Trade Commission will also be reactivated to promote a greater exchange of information to fight the drug traffic and production.

The presidents also discussed cooperation plans for the construction on Colombian territory of the airports of Mitu and Puerto Inirida, the enlargement of the Leticia airport, the construction of a shipyard in Leticia, and the establishment of the Saboya-Carare railway. The two countries will carry out agreements stemming from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and emphasized their interest in the upcoming meetings to be held in La Paz and Quito.

Colombia and Brazil will support the OAS efforts to hold an inter-American conference on drugs in Rio de Janeiro in April. Finally, the two presidents decided to intensify cultural cooperation between their two countries.

INCREASE EXPECTED FOR BRASILSAT INSURANCE

PY301622 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Jan 85 p 21

[Text] Brasilia -- The explosion of the Challenger space shuttle could make it impossible to launch the Brasilsat II communications satellite scheduled to go up in mid-March this year. Romulo Villar Furtado, secretary-general of the Ministry of Communication, emphasized that the cost of insurance will go "sky-high." In order to put its second domestic satellite into orbit, Brazil would have had to pay approximately $30 million, that is, 353.58 billion cruzeiros, to a consortium of insurance companies. This is 30 percent of the cost of the project or twice the amount spent to launch Brasilsat I, 1 year ago. The Challenger accident is bound to push up the price of insurance even higher.

Fifteen years ago the insurance companies used to charge 4 or 5 percent of the total cost of space projects. When Brasilsat I went up 1 year ago from the Kouru base in French Guyana, insurance premiums had already gone up to 15 percent of the value of the satellite and the rocket. Recent accidents with the space shuttles, Columbia and Challenger, and the French Ariane rockets that carry the Brazilian satellites have prompted the insurance companies to double their premiums.

The Brasilsat I paid $15 million, 176,925 million cruzeiros, its overall cost being $100 million, to a "pool" [preceding word in English] of insurance companies headed by the Brazilian Reinsurance Institute (IRB). Brasilsat II cost the same as Brasilsat I but its insurance costs were expected to be $30 million.

Yesterday, after hearing about the Challenger accident, the secretary general of the Ministry of Communications had no information about the decision that will be taken concerning Brasilsat II. Although he admitted he was aware of an "absurd" upward tendency of insurance premiums, which could make the project unfeasible, he also mentioned that there was a way out: launch the satellite without insuring it. This decision, however, depends on an agreement with General Telephone Electronics (GTE), a private U.S. telecommunications enterprise that will be sending up its own satellite in the same rocket that Brazil has purchased.

AIR FORCE CHIEF REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PINOCHET

PY300008 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1618 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Santiago, 29 Jan (EFE) -- General Fernando Matthei, commander in chief of the Chilean Air Force (FACH) and a member of the Government Junta, today said that "there will be no dialogue behind Pinochet's back." In statements to the newspapers LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS of Santiago, the high-ranking FACH officer also stated that "the Armed Forces will never undermine the president's authority."

Some sectors opposing General Pinochet's regime think General Matthei would have been a "good candidate" for dialogue after Pinochet refused the possibility of considering a dialogue. Moreover, Matthei said today that it is "impossible" to think about a political dialogue without General Pinochet's ideas being taken into account. Matthei, who was consulted about the 1989 presidential succession that is provided for by the Constitution, stated that it will not be changed and he said: "I do not know why this concern exists, there are still 4 years ahead of us."

U.S. LINKS LIBYA, SURINAME TO LOCAL TERRORISM

PY291814 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Libya is reportedly giving financial support to Chilean terrorist groups and leftwing parties. This information was disclosed by U.S. intelligence officials. The sources also stated that Libya is reportedly using Suriname as an operations base in South America and the Caribbean.

EXILED RADICAL LEADER MIRANDA ARRIVES

PY302329 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Exiled former Radical Senator Hugo Miranda Ramirez today arrived in Chile from Mexico where he lives. Miranda was authorized by the Interior Ministry to stay in Chile for 8 days. The decision to let him return was made for humanitarian reasons because Miranda's mother, Flor Ramirez, is seriously ill and hospitalized at the intensive care unit in La Serena hospital. Miranda went from Commodore Arturo Merino Benitez Airport to Los Cerrillos Airport to board an airplane that transported him to the 4th region.

M-19 USED VENEZUELAN ARMS IN PALACE TAKEOVER

PA310439 Paris AFP in Spanish 0357 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Bogota, 30 Jan (AFP) -- In a clandestine document sent to the press, the Colombian guerrilla movement 19 April Movement [M-19] today disclosed that the weapons used during the bloody occupation of the Palace of Justice in Bogota in November were purchased from the Venezuelan Army.

In the communique, Alvaro Fayad, commander of the M-19, also denied the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who said that these weapons were supplied by the Nicaraguan Sandinist regime.

"The U.S. State Department must know that we have enough weapons that were recently and previously purchased from the Venezuelan Army, and that the Venezuelan Army government-issue weapons circulate quite freely along the border in Cucuta and Maicao," said Fayad.

Fayad also stated that during the occupation of the Palace of Justice the M-19 committed military mistakes because 7 of the 42 members of the attack group were not able to enter the building to consolidate the defense of the main floor and the basements. The antitank mines, he added, failed to explode.

In addition, he rejected the charges presented by Justice Minister Enrique Parejo that the action was executed with drug traffickers support in order to entangle the extradition processes of Colombians accused of this crime that is required by the United States.

He recalled that the M-19 has always opposed any Colombian being tried by foreign courts or serving sentences in faraway prisons. Furthermore, he advocated the creation of a Bolivarian rebel military force based on the Colombian National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, which includes the dissident and Communist Ricardo Franco Front and the indigenous Quintin Lame front.

It is worthwhile to mention that rumors have circulated over the past few weeks about a recent guerrilla summit meeting in the Cauca mountains in Colombia's southwest in which Peruvian, Panamanian, Ecuadoran, Venezuelan, and Nicaraguan extremists participated to form the so-called America Battalion. Apparently, some of its members have already gone into action in the region.

Finally, reiterating the M-19's willingness for a dialogue, Fayad said that his movement is open to any peace proposal, "any proposal that entails reforms and change for the good of the majorities." After this, he appealed for the formation of a consensus of majorities "interested in a change with justice."

COOPERATION, TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

PA291749 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1833 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Bogota, 26 Jan (DPA) -- After 3 days of negotiations in Moscow, Colombia and the USSR have signed an agreement for technical and scientific cooperation and trade.

Colombian Minister of Economic Development Gustavo Castro Guerrero met in the Soviet capital with Soviet Minister of Foreign Trade Boris Aristov and with Petr Yakovlevich Kochelev, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

The document signed, released today in Bogota, analyzes the trade between the two nations in the past 2 years (when Colombian exports increased from $18 million to $26 million) and compliance with signed contracts, particularly for the supply of turbines for the Urra hydroelectric plant in northwestern Colombia.

According to the documents released in Bogota, the USSR will export tractors and farming machinery, equipment for thermoelectric plants, oil tanks, turbopunches [turbo perforadores], coal extraction equipment, polygraph equipment, machinery, tools, and other items to Colombia.

Regarding scientific cooperation, it was agreed that a Colombian delegation will visit the USSR to study the possibilities of cooperation in the areas of nonconventional transportation, science and technology planning, basic sciences, and the prediction of seismic movements.

CNG ANNOUNCES EXPULSION OF RICARDO FRANCO FRONT

PA292256 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Jan 86 p 12 A

[Communique issued by the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNG, in "Colombia," in January]

[Text] For life and freedom. With indignation, sorrow, and solidarity with hundreds of relatives of the people's combatants, and National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNG, emphatically rejects the explanations given by Javier Delgado for the Cauca killings. Delgado and his group, using the weak argument of investigating an infiltration, have besmirched human dignity. Some 100 revolutionaries have been killed and tortured and countless atrocities have been perpetrated against them.

These facts and the approach given to them run contrary to revolutionary purposes, morals and conduct, and resemble the procedures of the oligarchy and its military forces and intelligence services. They have also done great harm to the people and their guerrilla forces. The CNG condemns these acts unmitigatedly, rejects the justification given for them, and irrevocably and definitively expels the Ricardo Franco Front from the CNG. The CNG takes this opportunity to urge the companeros of the Ricardo Franco Front who disagreed with and condemned such procedures, to further disassociate themselves from such procedures and to continue in the revolutionary struggle.

Never, and with no pretext or justification, can leftists use torture. The leaders or commanders cannot decide the fate of the people with no controls at all and at their free will. Prisoners of war deserve treatment that is very different from the customary treatment given to them by the Colombian potentates and their Army. We have won over the masses through education and never through coercion, terror, or the imposition of weapons. There is a radical difference between revolutionary morals and behavior and that of the dominant classes. The truth, not lies, is our weapon. Therefore, we neither hide nor minimize the serious and unforgivable crimes perpetrated by the Ricardo Franco Front.

When the oligarchy increases state terrorism, intensifies repression and stains all democracy, the guerrillas movement should move farther away from hegemony, cannibalism, the improper handling of conflicts, sectarianism and intolerance. Today, what has happened in the Ricardo Franco Fronts moves us to continue and to deepen the analysis of the causes of the problem.

This also demands the renewal of our appeal to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, to participate in a dialogue and at the same time to put aside their hegemonism, imposition, disrespect for the other revolutionaries and practice of taxing the masses.

With our willingness to give our own lives for a new society, national independence, democracy for the people, and the elimination of so much exploitation, we are struggling for life. The revolution is the future and happiness. The revolution is never the sadness and delirium represented by Javier Delgado. The system we pursue is very far from the atmosphere of terror, violence, anxiety, and injustice presently existing in the fatherland. The oligarchy, on the contrary, represents the past and death. Its scorched-earth policy, betrayal of the nation, unfair distribution of land and wealth, starvation wages, unemployment, militarization of the national life, and the disappearances and murders of popular leaders, represent death, never life. Unity is part of our victory.

National Guerrilla Coordinating Board: for the Quintin Lame Command, the High Command; for the Revolutionary Workers Party, the National Directorate; the the 19-April Movement, Alfaro Fayad; for Free Fatherland, the Superior Command; for the Popular Liberation Army, Ernesto Rojas; for the Army of National Liberation, National Directorate.

Colombia, January 1986

SURPRISE OPERATION RESCUES KIDNAPPED SOLDIERS

PA271329 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1932 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Bogota, 25 Jan (DPA) -- Colombian Army units carried out a surprise operation a few hours ago to rescue three soldiers kidnapped last Sunday by the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board in Cauca Department. According to official sources in Bogota, 1 soldier and 20 guerrillas died in this action. Colonel Eduardo Arevalo, Defense Ministry press spokesman, identified the three soldiers as Corporal Victor Montealegre and soldiers Mario Leonel Bastidas and Edgar Cipriano Flores. Arevalo said that soldier Dario Osorio Lopez was killed in the action. The rescue operation was carried out early yesterday in Alto de Paramillo, apparently when the guerrillas were presenting the three soldiers to foreign correspondents. According to unofficial sources, an unidentified and noncommissioned officer was also killed, but this could not be confirmed. Troops from the "Rifles," "Colombia," "Palace," and "Jose Hilario Lopez" Battalions took part in this operation. Since last Sunday they have been confronting some 1,000 guerrillas of the so-called "America Battalion."

It is not known what happened to the correspondents attending the press conference, which was held in a mountainous region of Cauca Department, where a large group of subversives were holding the soldiers. The rescued soldiers were taken by helicopter to Cali, where they will file a report today on the ambush in El Alto de Mendez, near Silvia village. A military patrol was attacked here last Sunday and nine soldiers were killed, among them a lieutenant; seven other soldiers were wounded. An Indian scout was also killed.

The guerrillas are led by Carlos Pizarro Leon-Gomez, Marcos Chalita, Alvaro Fayad, Libardo Parra and Gustavo Arias Londono, of the 19 April Movement, and by Peruvian and Ecuadoran guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru II and Alfaro Lives movements, a military source said. Mainwhile, military sources reported at noon today that clashes with columns of the National Guerrillas Coordinating Board, which are trying to advance to the Cauca Department area, are continuing. The guerrilla columns are estimated at more than 500 men. According to reports, among the guerrillas are members of the Alfaro Lives movement of Ecuador and of Shining Path and Tupac Amaru II movements of Peru, and possibly two U.S. citizens.

PENAHERRERA RETURNS FROM TRIP, COMMENTS ON ECONOMY

PA301254 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Vice President Blasco Penaherrera Padilla and the delegation that attended the transfer of command in Honduras returned to the country today. Upon arriving in Quito, the vice president said that he held working meetings with the new Honduran authorities and that he completed a cultural and economic agreement with that country.

In addition, asked about the economic measures taken by the Monetary Board, the vice president supported them and said that such measures will serve to cope with the effects of the coming economic crisis due to the imminent oil price drop.

[Begin recording] [Penaherrera, in progress] ...has been designated president of the Monetary Board in recognition of his civic standing and achievements [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] a new currency devaluation began yesterday. Will this entail new adjustments in the national development plan?

[Penaherrera] Of course. The president has felt that this measure is proper and timely in the framework of the coming critical situation due to an oil price drop. Regarding this, countries like Venezuela and Mexico, which have experienced similar economic situations, have already begun to set up measures, not only similar to ours, but even stricter. [Words indistinct] the measures adopted compensate the resulting negative effects of such a situation. The new tariff and the import of essential products for the economy are included in the new measures. This transfer of an important segment of the devaluation profit from exporters [words indistinct]. It shows indications of a strong recovery and, as a result, [words indistinct]. [end recording]

MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE MARKS PROTOCOL ANNIVERSARY

PA310212 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Press communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Quito on 29 January]

[Text] On the occasion of another anniversary of the signing of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, the Foreign Ministry reiterated the Ecuadoran Government's position to defend the Republic's territorial rights and pointed to its permanent objective to reach a just, peaceful, and honorable solution together with the Peruvian Government.

A cordial solution would consolidate the friendly relations that the Ecuadoran Government strives to maintain with the Peruvian Government, contribute to the development of the two countries, and upgrade the welfare to which their peoples are entitled.

Quito, 29 January 1986

POLICE BREAK UP MOPOCO LEADERSHIP MEETING

PY302310 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 30 Jan 86 p 10

[Text] The Mopoco [Popular Colorado Movement] this morning reported that uniformed and plainclothes police, carrying clubs, electric truncheons, and high caliber weapons, raided the house located at 876 Murillo Street, where the leadership of the movement was holding its usual Wednesday meeting. Waldino Lovera, the movement's president, said that "the Mopoco members were told to leave the house within a matter of minutes and return to their respective homes. We want to report this violation of the Constitution, which implicity guarantees the freedom to meet peacefully, as the Mopoco does," Lovera said. The president of the movement also said that "we want it known that the Mopoco has always acted openly, without violating the laws or government regulations, in accordance with the vocation for dialogue and peace that has always characterized the members of this organization. "We will not give up our campaign to pacify Paraguay and bring democracy to it as we have always promised," Lovera added.

PATRIA EDITORIAL CRITICIZES ELLIOTT ABRAMS

PY301551 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 30 Jan 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Perfidy Against Our Country"]

[Text] Before anything else today, we present our heart-felt condolences to the U.S. people and President Reagan for the tragic deaths of the astronauts of the Challenger shuttle on the 25th space mission. Having discharged this duty with brotherly sentiments, let us take up the topic of the day, which is disagreeable and forces us to use unusual language.

It should be easy to note that we do not attack, but defend ourselves, and that, for the sake of the nation's dignity, we must answer the fallacies and malicious statements by a State Department bureaucrat of dubious background who we are becoming suspicious of because of the obstinacy of his badly disguised animosity toward Paraguay.

Once again, the man in question is Under Secretary for Latin American Affairs [title as published] Elliott Abrams. We have already reported his sectarian treatment of everything pertaining to Paraguay, and we can now assert that because of his insistence on "errors" (which are nothing but prejudice and partiality), he has alienated the sentiment of the majority of democratic Paraguayans. In fact, because he is unjust, sectarian, and defamatory, Elliott Abrams has ceased to be persona grata for this majority of Paraguayans.

Mr Abrams resumed his game in an interview granted to journalists on 17 January. His interview was televised via satellite so as to emphasize the David-and-Goliath character of this duel. Such was the sophistication of the technological means at his disposal for the attack compared with the means available to us for our defense. But if this difference can be overcome with truth and conviction, we do not have to worry, because it has been said that one can always lie, but one cannot always deceive the whole world. So, we have nothing to fear if the truth is told.

According to a report from the U.S. Information Service, Mr Elliott Abrams mentioned Paraguay among the "largest obstacles" to the region's democratization. This statement alone, related to another that we will point out later, reveals a sectarian and biased view, which we publicly denounced before the honest conscience of Paraguayan democrats.

We are not going to resort to provocations as Mr Abrams did, not even by recalling comparisons that we reject as false and unwarranted. We will only proclaim to the world that in Paraguay, neither President Stroessner, nor his government, nor the Colorado Party, nor the Armed Forces, nor the participating democratic opposition "resists democratization." They have rather built democracy through a Constituent Assembly, a legitimate Constitution, and the frank participation of parties in the periodic referendums of the popular will. The United States might be "committed" to democratic transition in countries of Latin America not ruled by democratic regimes. This is not the case in Paraguay, however. We emphatically reject this false and stupid provocation.

In Paraguay, elective authorities are periodically renewed through elections, in which options and votes are pluralistic. Not only the legally recognized parties, but the smallest faction that has something to say, something to oppose, or something to demand, no matter how preposterous it might be, has access to the media through which the opinion of the public can be shaped to serve the nation's political interests. The most recent testimony of the amplitude with which that right can be exercised is the proposal for a "national dialogue." This proposal helped to discuss the rancor, the incompatibility, and the real intentions of the radicalized minorities and the extremists grouped in illegitimate pacts. They do not seek dialogue, because, fraught with prejudice and malice, they are only seeking a shortcut to bypass the active civic contest and obtain power through force or an opportune circumstance, which would make a mockery of the popular will. This is why they reject participation, elections, and membership in the democratic opposition. This is why they expend less effort in gaining supporters in this country than in finding accomplices abroad -- although in this instance we do not mean to pass judgment on Mr Abrams.

With such an approach and with such a tremendous mistake in evaluating completely different situations in Latin America, it is no wonder that the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs made another monumental blunder when he said: "Our ambassadors (theirs) are doing exactly what they are told to do; that is, maintain close contact with the democratic opposition so they will be able to know what is taking place in these countries, and also make it explicitly clear that we support democracy."

Limiting ourselves to our country, because we are not going to get involved with the others he mentioned, the gravity of the extreme position which Mr. Abrams takes in implicitly differentiating between what he considers "democratic opposition" and what he believes is not is obvious. If we take into account what happened here in Asuncion, things are complicated even further by what the assistant secretary said, because by holding meetings at the headquarters of the irregular opposition sector, despite the fact that this sector does not participate [in elections] and despite the fact that it seeks contacts and influence abroad, this political sector is qualified as "democratic." On the contrary, the other opposition sector, that which actively participates in the civic and political struggle, which is represented in Congress, in municipal councils and electoral organizations and whose leaders are "invited" to speak in "diplomatic territory," is disqualified as "undemocratic".

This is a strange way to "support democracy" by preferring those that seek to destroy it over all those who have sought to establish and implement it in a country that for many years experienced political instability and precarious institutional conditions.

With a little more good sense, it would have been easy for any observer to see that in this century in which there were about 30 governments, none has done more toward achieving political stability, normal institutional conditions and the true enforcement of the Constitution and the laws in Paraguay than the government of President Stroessner through the democratic basis of the Colorado Party.

Democratic pluralism has never enjoyed a longer run than it does today. It has been in force without exception since 1963 despite the plots of the minorities which have decided to abstain [from elections] and which do not represent the thinking, the feelings, or the desires of the Paraguayan people who aspire to live in peace, and to choose freely and participate and work in an environment of security and peace that will guarantee that they and their descendants will be able to enjoy what they have achieved with their toil and daily sacrifice.

That is the extent of the disproportionate aberrant slander in which Mr. Elliott Abrams has engaged with his ill-intentioned lies against our country, its government, and against the political reality our country is experiencing with no other motive than the sectarianism which is obvious because of the unforgivable omission of those essential factors that characterize and differentiate the present situation in Paraguay from others with which it is perversely compared, and the sectarian preference of the irregular anti-democratic and seditious opposition sector because of an attitude that is not aimed at gathering "information" but of "intervention" because it is selective and sectarian. But once again, the sin is in itself a punishment, because by saying that "we support democracy," he also granted support to the anti-democratic opposition which is one of the "greatest obstacles" to achieving a multi-party system because of its staunch opposition to democratization.

OPPOSITION LEADER FERREIRA SUPPORTS ACCORD

PY301148 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Blanco Party leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate has said his party is willing to help in the search for an accord to overcome the serious problems our country is confronting. The Blanco leader, who today met President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, said there are issues on which his party and the Colorado Party will never agree. He said the president did not offer ministerial posts to him, and that the possible recomposition of the Cabinet with members of other parties is a matter of secondary importance.

Ferreira Aldunate said the president will begin a second round of talks in which specific proposals will be put forward. Parties will be asked to propose plans for implementing the president's idea. The Blanco leader advocated agreement with all the sectors and said that the major objectives must be to promote development in the industrial, agricultural, and livestock fields in order to reduce unemployment and increase the purchasing power of salaries.

[Begin Ferreira Aldunate recording] I believe there are matters on which we will never agree, because we are two different parties and, consequently, the way each of us sees the country and the model that each of us wants for our country differ. There are things on which all of us agree, even if only because they are in the Constitution. All of us profess an ideology that supports freedom and representative democracy. This may have sounded meaningless at other times, but it is very important now, after 12 years of darkness, when there was neither freedom nor democracy. All of us must prevent even the slightest possibility of again going through all that. Therefore, if the president asks for Blanco Party cooperation for an accord of this kind, I do not have to consult with my party to say yes, because the Blanco and the Colorado parties and the Broad Front have repeatedly expressed their willingness to cooperate. [end recording]

Ferreira Aldunate also explained how the accord is to be reached. [Begin Ferreira Aldunate recording] How are we going to reach the accord? Well, we will try to reach the accord on the basis of premises which you already know: we will try to boost development within the agricultural and livestock sectors, promote industry, create new jobs, search for new markets, and sell our products abroad in order to alleviate the problems we are confronting. We will also try to create an atmosphere of confidence to attract investments, promote productive activities, and help create new jobs. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER IGLESIAS VISITS ISRAEL

For reportage on the 4-day visit of Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias to Israel, see the Israel section of the 30 January Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

LUSINCHI VIEWS OIL PRICE DISCUSSION AS NECESSARY

PA301847 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] All is ready in Cancun for the meeting to be held at this Aztec seaside resort by the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela, Miguel de la Madrid and Jaime Lusinchi. This morning at the Miraflores Presidential Palace, the head of state swore in Dr Octavio Lepage as acting president.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Martin Pacheco, in progress] ...in Mexico, Dr Lusinchi will discuss all aspects of the energy situation at the international, and particularly the Latin American levels. On this topic, specific subjects such as market reductions, price adjustments, consequences of the crisis, and its impact on the negotiations for payment of both country's debts, which amount to some $130 billion, will take up the two leaders' time during the next few hours. On leaving Miraflores, the president pointed out the importance of his trip to Cancun.

[Lusinchi] I believe this trip is called for in the present situation, in case there is a need to make adjustments of any kind. In this connection, we made wide consultations in Venezuela, and I believe that even though there are differences of opinion -- and this is as it should be, this is positive, this is a sign of our democracy -- it is obvious that we have the backing of the great majority of our people in this quest.

[Pacheco] Before leaving the seat of executive power, the head of state pointed out the need for intensive and immediate work by both countries in defense of oil, which remains the pillar of their respective economies.

This trip to Cancun by the head of state is surrounded by great expectations. All political, social, and economic sectors at this moment support the trip, taking into account the fact that very important efforts are being made to stabilize worldwide oil markets, in which Mexico and Venezuela play a fundamental role. From the Miraflores Palace, this is Martin Pacheco, for the news. [end recording]

BRIEFS

PANAMANIAN, FRG AMBASSADORS -- Marcel Salamin and Hans Werner Loeck have presented their credentials to President Jaime Lusinchi. They are the new ambassadors to Venezuela from Panama and the FRG, respectively. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0243 GMT 29 Jan 86 PA]

DE LA MADRID BEGINS OIL TALKS WITH LUSINCHI

FL302316 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2215 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City 30 Jan, (NOTIMEX) -- Cancun, 30 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Today, Mexican and Venezuelan Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Jaime Lusinchi began talks on the international oil market's crisis to coordinate cooperation of the two countries in oil policy matters.

President Lusinchi is accompanied by Ministers of Finance and Energy and Mines Manuel Azpurua and Arturo Hernandez Grisanti and Petroleos de Venezuela President Brigido Natera, who will meet with their Mexican counterparts Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog, Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Secretary Francisco Labastida Ochoa, and Pemex director Mario Ramon Beteta.

According to Pemex director Mario Ramon Beteta, there is no oil price war. There is a difficult international market situation and, because of this, the two most important Latin American oil producing countries will have to establish a line of action.

The two heads of state's working agenda for today includes a first round of talks at the Mayan House and, simultaneously, delegations from the two countries will hold discussions and reach agreements.

The two leaders will remain in Cancun until tomorrow although no official event is scheduled.

ITALIAN VICE MINISTER ARRIVES TO DISCUSS TRADE

FL301659 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0426 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Italian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Susana Agnelli has arrived today in Mexico on an official visit during which she will discuss trade relations between the two countries with government officials and a possible renewal of conversations by their joint commissions.

During her stay in the capital, Susana Agnelli will meet with the Under Secretaries of Commerce and Foreign relations, Luis Bravo Aguilera and Ricardo Valero, respectively.

When she was interviewed upon her arrival in this capital, the Italian official expessed the opinion that the threats of Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi are quite dangerous but underscored the fact that, when terrorism is oral, governments have no reason for alarm.

Regarding the drop in the price of oil on the international market, Agnelli said that, if this situation continues, the world economic crisis will worsen, affecting mainly the financial structures of the developing nations that have to make debt payments.

The debt problem, she explained, is one of the matters that most worry the entire world because social violence may occur in debtor nations if no solution can be found.

Finally, the Italian vice minister exhorted creditor and debtor nations to reach an immediate understanding that will make it possible to speed up the economy and stimulate the exports of under-developed nations without affecting the interests of the creditor nations.

SILVA HERZOG REJECTS DEBT PAYMENTS MORATORIUM

FL301350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0440 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Jesus Silva Herzog has said it is too early to talk of declaring a payments moratorium because of the fall in oil prices. He said it is necessary to acknowledge and understand the problems facing us, and added that Mexico is capable of facing any challenge.

When he was interviewed at Mexico City International Airport upon his return from participating in the financial seminar held in London, the finance secretary said that the Federal government has adopted the proper financial measures for the country, for which reason there is no possibility that the course of our economy will change.

When he spoke of the international financial meeting he had attended in Great Britain, Silva Herzog said that, at the meeting, the international financial institutions had a clear understanding of the problems Mexico has to face because of the drop in oil prices.

Silva Herzog said that, at the seminar, he had had the chance to speak with British banking officials and with officials of the British Government and exchange points of view on the future financial needs of the Mexican republic.

BRIEFS

COCAINE CONFISCATED -- Jose Luis de la Garza, a crewman of the Royal Princess cruiseliner, was arrested in Acapulco by the Federal Judicial Police. De la Garza had disembarked with some 50 kg of pure cocaine. The Royal Princess arrived in Acapulco port on 7 January at 8:00 from Balboa, Panama. En route it had stopped in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Santo Tomas, La Guaira, Venezuela, and Curacao. [Summary] [Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 8 Jan 86 p 6 PA]

PRD LEGISLATOR CLAIMS NATIONAL 'DEMOCRATIC FARCE'

PA291708 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Jan 86 p 24

[By Jose Quintero del Leon]

[Excerpts] Panamenist Party legislator Marcos A. Alarcon has told LA PRENSA that the governing party (the PRD) [Democratic Revolutionary Party] has been manipulating the opportunity of meetings between Panamanian legislators who have a commitment to this country and representatives of the U.S. Government, including congressmen, so that, generally speaking, the Panamanians have never been able to denounce the situation that the country is enduring as a result of the "democratic farce" that exists here, of the waste, of the continuous violations of human rights, and of the corruption that prevails at the administrative level.

The legislator, who is also a teacher, delivered a polemical speech during a meeting with U.S. congressmen. He charged that we live in a democratic farce and that human rights are being violated in Panama. He also charged that the corruption in the government could have effects on the management of the canal.

In his opinion, the meeting was positive because it allowed the opposition legislators the opportunity to denounce and to inform the U.S. congressmen about some of the political aberrations that exist in the country which would be camouflaged by the legislators of the governing party if it were up to them to discuss the issue, since they always try to give to U.S. representatives the image of a Panama that is the equivalent to an oasis of freedom, respect for human rights, and democracy.

U.S. GOODWILL, ASSISTANCE, MANEUVERS QUESTIONED

PA291929 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 86 p 4

[Joaquin Beleno column: "Maneuvers and Maneuverers"]

[Excerpts] The strategy of carrying out military maneuvers near countries that do not have the approval of the Pentagon and the White House is more significant at this moment when the U.S. Navy has been deployed within the 200-mile limit of Libya, as it has been occurring also off the Nicaraguan coasts and in Honduran territory with the participation of Honduran and U.S. troops.

In Europe, the EEC -- which is composed of the most important industrialized countries of that continent, countries that are allies of the United States -- has not followed Reagan's instructions to impose sanctions on Libya. In America, there are countries up to their necks in debt. Will they be brave enough to reject Reagan's instructions against the people of Nicaragua?

The Latin American population grows constantly and it is constantly growing poorer. However, Reagan and his followers are doing increasingly less to help resolve the economic problems of "their friends" and allies.

Can we believe that the congressmen and senators coming to Panama to question our domestic affairs and to support the violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties have any goodwill?

COLUMNIST URGES INDIANS TO ACCEPT MILITARY ZONE

PA290418 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jan 86 p 4

["Firing Line" column by Jose Franco: "Intolerable Defiance"]

[Text] I was deeply perplexed upon reading reports published in opposition newspapers in reference to statements made by spokesmen for Kuna Youth [Juventud Kuna], who allowed themselves to question the Defense Forces' right to establish the 12th Military Zone in the Kuna Yala Region, as wellas a branch of the National Bank, and to designate a mayor.

Independently of any negative behavior demonstrated by the Indians to justify this attitude which borders on defiance of our authorities and which goes against the letter and spirit of the National Constitution and the Panamanian state's principles of territorial integration, I believe that these dissident positions flagrantly threaten our legal structures and the Panamanian nation's physical unity, which cannot tolerate limitations.

The intentions that fully justify the installation of the 12th Military Zone in that Atlantic region could not be more praiseworthy and constructive, because they are aimed at fighting against clandestine immigration, promoting medical tours and massive vaccine campaigns, constructing a high school, providing transportation for teachers within the region, eliminating contraband, and fighting illegal drug trafficking.

Ninety percent of the military force that would be stationed in Kuna Yala would be Panamanians from that region, which will contribute to increased respect for the region's culture and traditions, and the idiosyncracies of its inhabitants -- who never before had an infrastructure of power capable of guaranteeing their interests -- as well as gradually including them in our political framework.

All of these arguments have been supported at different meetings between Major Luis Sanjur and Defense Forces officers with Indian spokesmen, by Legislator Arcadio Martinez, who has considered the benefits of the projects put forth by the national government from the civilian and military viewpoints, which makes him deserving of our consideration because this is the way all responsible citizens should behave.

PEOPLE'S PARTY URGES GUARANTEE OF CANAL TURNOVER

PA280441 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0247 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Panama City, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Panamanian communists have proposed the creation of a "national army" to defend the country's interests and guarantee the United States' withdrawal from the Panama Canal.

During the closure of the communist People's Party national congress held in this capital, the political faction's secretary general stressed that "Panama must not allow any of the United States' excuses to prolong its presence in our national territory."

The communists' thesis is that when the time comes for the canal administration's turnover to the Panamanian Government, which is set for 31 December 1999 by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the United States will try to prolong its shared control of the waterway. The secretary general of the pro-Soviet People's Party also said that Panama must comprise a "great democratic national liberation front with the Torrijist and anti-imperialist forces in Panama."

According to his figures, more than 500,000 [as received] persons and 300 delegates from all over the country attended the communist congress. In addition, the congress was attended by delegates from communist parties of the GDR, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Lebanon, the Soviet Union, Palestine, Japan, and the FSLN of Nicaragua.

During the closing ceremony, Soviet representative Mikhail Ponomarev praised the new goal of the People's Party -- to become "a party of the masses with power."

Likewise, Pedro Ross of Cuba reasserted Cuban solidarity with the Panamanian people's struggle "to evict the U.S. troops."

The People's Party Eighth National Congress, which started on 24 January, also praised the new Central Committee, which will carry out the new expansionist policy. The Panamanian communists participated in the 1984 general elections and appointed a presidential candidate, but they did not receive the necessary 3 percent of the vote to remain a political group after the elections.

Leader on Debt, Economy

PA290319 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Jan 86 p 11

[By Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] Ruben D. Souza B., secretary general of the People's Party [PdP], said Sunday in a speech to close the PdP's eighth congress that the economic development of our dear Panama cannot be conditioned by blackmail attempts by financing sources that want to undercut that development along with the salaries and food supply of the Panamanian people.

Souza was unanimously reelected secretary general of the (communist) PdP at the end of 3 days of debates by 300 delegates, who discussed the central report and new tasks to be accomplished within the context of the Panamanian revolutionary process.

Regarding the delicate economic situation, Souza stressed the need for all underdeveloped countries to tackle the foreign debt problem jointly and expressed support for the summit scheduled for Panama City in August.

The same session of the PdP served as the setting to strengthen the ties of cooperation among progressive democrats as delegates from the Democratic Revolutionary Party, the Popular Broad Front Party, and the Panamenist Party, which make up the National Democratic Union, as well as representatives of Panama's left-wing parties and currents such as the Revolutionary Party of the Workers and Workers Socialist Party attended the closing session as special guests.

An important development at the international level was the presence of delegates of ruling communist parties like those of the USSR, GDR, and Cuba, as well as a delegation from the FSLN and representatives of Costa Rican, Colombian, Palestinian, Lebanese, Japanese, Guayanese, Jamaican, Dominican, and Venezuelan communists.

The PdP secretary general attached great importance to the Torrijist line and the fulfillment of the Panama Canal treaties, and criticized U.S. violations of the treaties.

GUATEMALA

SALVADORAN COMMERCIAL PLANE REPORTEDLY ATTACKED

PA302148 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] New reports were released tonight regarding an incident on the Salvadoran TACA International Airline that was beginning a flight from Guatemala City to Los Angeles, California at approximately 1900. The latest reports indicate that the plane was attacked from the ground 5 minutes after takeoff from La Aurora International Airport. There is no information on where the attack originated; however, sources linked to airport control said a bullet hit the plane as it was beginning its liftoff into the Guatemalan sky.

Previous reports had indicated that a firearm belonging to one of the passengers went off and wounded someone, whereupon the crew decided to return to the Guatemalan airport. The plane remained on an isolated part of the runway for a long time while the passengers were reportedly under investigation inside the plane. It is not known whether anyone has been arrested.

At 2130, the passengers were evacuated from the plane and taken to the Guatemalan Air Force installations at the airport, apparently to prevent the frustrated passengers from having any contact with the press. As of a few minutes ago, the TACA international plane was still at La Aurora Airport.

Police sources have refrained from providing information on this incident. Similarly, it has been impossible to locate authorities at TACA International in Guatemala City to obtain more information.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES CHIEF RESIGNS; RESIGNATION WITHDRAWN

Allegedly Cites Army Corruption

PA301351 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1217 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Entirely reliable sources have informed Radio America that Honduran Armed Forces Chief General Walter Lopez Reyes will tender his resignation before the National Congress. The reasons cited for the resignation are: a serious lack of discipline, corruption, lack of respect, the breach of military ethics by ranking Armed Forces officers, and shows of arrogance by subordinates. The Armed Forces chief will resign within the next several days.

Radio America's news department learned of the resignation yesterday. Entirely reliable sources confirmed the report this morning. One source said Lopez Reyes is disappointed over the arrogance displayed by his subordinates in the Army, which is the cause of a grave lack of discipline, corruption, lack of respect, and the breach of military ethics. Most of the Lopez Reyes' subordinates are aware of this situation, which takes away prestige from the Armed Forces. Lopez Reyes said he is disappointed and will resign within the next several days.

His assumption of the position of Armed Forces chief was a result of circumstances that arose after the current Armed Forces chief ousted his predecessor, General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, from office.

At the time it was said that Alvarez Martinez' tenure as Armed Forces chief was leading the country toward perilous situations, while the Army preferred not to participate in actions that jeopardized Honduras' future. A group of Armed Forces officers led by Gen Lopez Reyes staged a military coup, placing Alvarez Martinez in temporary confinement and later deporting him. The Armed Forces later claimed that corruption was rampant under Alvarez Martinez' tenure, and that actions in this regard ranged from misappropriation of Armed Forces funds to the staging of false operations that were reportedly beneficial for the Army, but that ultimately benefitted only Armed Forces Chief Alvarez Martinez and other ranking Army officers. After Gen Walter Reyes assumed command of the forces, a number of documents, particularly photocopies of stock issues [titulos de capital] that Alvarez Martinez had collected were brought forth. This alone justified the coup against Alvarez Martinez.

However, Lopez Reyes has apparently not garnered the support of all the Army's officers, particularly those who were loyal to Alvarez Martinez' leadership at the front of the Honduran Army. These officers have apparently never respected Gen Lopez Reyes, while continuing to display a lack of discipline, lack of respect and disregard of military ethics. They are all said to be ranking Armed Forces officers.

Political and diplomatic sources have remarked that those officers do not accept Lopez Reyes' leadership, though they did formally yield to institutional procedures that singled Lopez Reyes out as natural successor to the command of the Armed Forces. Lopez Reyes reportedly attempted to impose his authority as chief, but ran up against a widespread lack of discipline, which he considered a lack of respect and a breach of military ethics. The course who informed Radio America of this developmwnt said that Armed Forces chief Walter Lopez Reyes is determined to present his resignation next week.

Interviewed by Radio America

PA301443 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1250 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Telephone interview with Armed Forces General Walter Lopez Reyes by Cadena Audio Video News Director Rodrigo Wong Arevalo -- live]

[Text] [Wong] General, Radio America reported this morning that reliable sources informed us that you will resign because some of your Army colleagues have displayed arrogance and a lack of discipline and staged acts of corruption that discredit the institution and jeopardize its future. Can you confirm this report, sir?

[Lopez Reyes] Naturally. Good morning Mr Wong Arevalo and thank you. I want to say that I will indeed resign within the next several days. However, I want to deny all of the reports on the existence of a lack of discipline, and on corruption in the Armed Forces. On the contrary, the institution has advanced a great deal in this regard. I will resign strictly in response to personal reasons. I am tired, that is why I have made this decision. I do not believe there will be any sort of crisis in the Armed Forces. I can assure the people that the Armed Forces will continue to serve the country, while I will serve as an adviser to the General Command.

[Wong] Sir, this report has made a great impact on us because, since you assumed command of the Armed Forces, the Army has regained its lost prestige, respect, and credibility. People were optimistic that under your leadership the institution would change. That is why we find it hard to believe that the reasons for your resignation are simple, and that there are no deeper motives.

[Lopez Reyes] I appreciate what you have just said. However, the Honduran people must not lose faith in the Armed Forces. The officers' corps will continue unchanged. We made a radical change in the Armed Forces policy, which was well received by the people. There are capable units to continue our task. This must not cause surprise. Our personal decisions are not complex. I am being realistic. I will resign because I am somewhat tired and this makes me want to retire. However, I will always cooperate with the institution by placing my capabilities and experience at the country's disposal. We cannot totally set aside our ideals and character. However, I want to reiterate that there are very capable men in the Armed Forces who will be able to lead the organization toward commendable goals.

[Wong] General: We have followed your actions as Armed Forces chief and discovered that the radical changes you imposed were not well received by the other officers because some of them missed the bonanza -- if this is a good term -- they enjoyed under General Alvarez Martinez' command. Are the problems you have had with officers who were followers of Alvarez Martinez responsible for your decision?

[Lopez Reyes] No, sir. I repeat that that is not why I decided to resign. Mostof the officers have changed their attitude. They are concerned about the threats and dangers that loom over our country. In addition to having examined all these factors seriously, they are aware of the sacred mission vested in them by the Constitution. I can also assure you that they are aware that their duties transcend [2-second break in transmission] unity among them in order to fulfill their duty. Although it is true that problems may exist -- as they exist in any other organization -- they are not serious. All obstacles have been graudally overcome. You will see my resignation soon. I want it to be clear that there has been no pressure on me to abandon my position. I want to leave. I will offer all my ability and experience to assist my comrades-in-arms.

[Wong] There is one important factor we cannot ignore, General. When you assumed the command of the Armed Forces, there was even a change in the foreign policy of the civilian government. When Alvarez Martinez was chief, Honduras was subservient to U.S. interests, which led Honduras to yield in problems it had with El Salvador and Nicaragua. We were unable to complete the border demarcation process with El Salvador because the United States imposed on us the establishment of a training center for Salvadoran soldiers. Regarding Nicaragua, Alvarez Martinez favored in the idea that Honduras be used as a springboard to launch an invasion against Nicaragua. You changed this. The Army assumed a more dignified stance in its relations with our traditional ally, the United States. With regard to Nicaragua, you never favored the idea of invading Nicaragua. Have there been international pressures against you?

[Lopez Reyes] No, that can be ruled out. I do not want to go into this very deeply, however, because my country's interests are at stake. The changes we made were planned to benefit the nation. It was a joint effort with members of the Foreign Secretariat, the administration, the executive branch, and the Armed Forces. They responded to serious analyses that sought to prevent abrupt changes. The results have benefitted Honduras. There have been no domestic or foreign pressures to force to me to resign.

I will be able to say more in the future. Nevertheless, I do want to say that I believe our country is on the right track. Hondurans are more aware each day that national unity must be effective and positive. If an administration or specific institution faces opposition, that opposition must be constructive. Our country cannot continue as it was during the last decade.

I prefer not to go into the conclusion of various agreements in the past because these are things of the past. We are optimistic about Honduras' future.

All Hondurans must work not only 8 or 10 hours a day, but devote more time to our country. However, with regard to the Armed Forces, I believe there is general consensus that its current policy must be continued. We must be strong in the face of adversities and show the world we are a truly independent nation. We must devote the best of our abilities to our country.

[Wong] I would like to comment that we were chatting several days ago here at the radio station and agreed that sometimes our radio reportage made us look bad because we constantly praised your performance as Armed Forces commander. We feared that this constant praise for you and your performance could backfire and make you feel like and become a military dictator, like Alvarez Martinez sought to be. However, we were wrong. Our praise helped you balance your thoughts and your actions. We see that on the contrary, you do not feel you are indispensable and you are preparing to retire at a time when the country needs an objective person like yourself at the head of the institution. We ask ourselves if your successor will understand the crises that will emerge during this administration. This government is politically weak and needs strong support like the support you afforded the Suazo Cordova regime in the crisis which took place last April and May. Will your replacement be aware of his responsibility?

[Lopez Reyes] I appreciate your words, Mr Wong Arevalo. I learned that the best way to act was with the people's interests in mind. This must always be done with humility. I saw all the recognition for my work as being personal accomplishments, [as heard] but also as the work of a humble, common man who received promotions and medals as a result of his efforts to serve his country. I wish to add that during my tenure as commander in chief many people have learned to act in that way. They have understood that meterial gains do not fulfill men. We are trained to fight, but we do not seek battles. We fight when we must defend an ideal or the country's interest. My teachings were assimilated by an overwhelming majority of the Armed Forces personnel. We acted correctly to serve the people in times of crisis. Many of my possible successors possess these qualities. They will have to learn to tolerate criticism, which in my case I always received as food for thought. Now all the members of the Armed Forces use criticism to keep their actions in check. It guides us.

[Wong] That is correct, sir. We are aware that when we criticized the Army on the way it was recruiting youths, you called us to a meeting and for the first time in many years the press realized that civilians and military could work together. You asked us to cooperate with the recruitment process and we did, because we were all acting in a civilized manner. However, some military leaders do not behave like you do. We are concerned that your successor will not be adept at political affairs. You have tested the Army in a time of crisis when civilians were forcing the military to assume power. However, the Armed Forces' behavior was exemplary. You asked politicians to calm down and act wisely and patriotically. You asked politicians to calm down and act wisely and patriotically. You asked them to show love for the country in the way they were to resolve the institutional crisis. Your address before the National Congress to guarantee that constitutional rule would be respected was widely commented around the world. We are concerned that the new Armed Forces chief will not be as wise as you have been.

[Lopez Reyes] I believe that there should be no great concern over this aspect. I can assure you that my successor will be an officer who will have the same capabilities and qualifications of a good leader. We are aware that only freely-elected governments that reflect the people's will can lead the country to better times. We are also aware that the government needs unconditional support, in order not to stumble. We also can see this in the people's attitude, as the people have also become aware that the best way to resolve our problems is in a civilized manner. We have laws which must be obeyed in order to guarantee law and order in all fields.

There is no doubt that our country is heading toward a better future; however, in order for this to be possible, there should be an awareness within the various social groups in our country because it is very unlikely that we can come out of this difficult situation through violence. We must analyze everything surrounding us; we must realize that our foreign policy has become stronger, but that internal crises weaken our position. I would like to stress again that whoever is appointed commander in chief will have the advice of many officers who are convinced that the best way to proceed is according to the law. In any event, those of us who will assume other functions will be ready to give our advice whenever the new commander in chiefs call on us. We will be more than willing to share the experience we have acquired throughout these years.

[Wong] Now, General, the establishment... [changes thought] President Azcona's government was the product of a quite unique election in which the faction with the most votes within the winning party wins the elections. This has led Azcona to sign a pact with the National Party of Honduras' [PNH] Callejista faction. Do you think this way of structuring the government has been advantageous or disadvantageous for the country? Do you think this will be a weak government that will always require the Armed Forces support?

[Lopez Reyes] I would prefer not to enter into the political field, as this field is banned to us. This has been part of the changes in the Armed Forces' philosophy and policies. However, I must say that any government must have that support. There might be crises -- I do not foresee any serious ones, but there might be -- and, logically, any government will require that support, and the Armed Forces must give the government its unconditional support.

[Wong] I asked that question, General, because I wanted to get to this point: Some national and international observers believe that the government structures are weak, that we do have a weak government, which has made it necessary for President Azcona to sign a pact with the PNH, which includes his most powerful rivals. Is it likely that at a given time this government set-up could weaken due to the politicians' sectarian and personal over-ambitiousness, which could lead to a coup d'etat during the next government term? Also, is it possible that considering this possibility you may have resigned in anticipation of it?

[Lopez Reyes] No, up to this moment I have not visualized such a situation. I repeat, we have thoroughly analyzed the political sitution; however, we cannot divulge our conclusions, as they must remain within the Armed Forces. Now, how weak or strong a government may be -- on account of its political foes, or the over-ambitiousness of the government's collaborators, or members of the opposition -- can be controlled in time. Political organizations must undergo some changes and must become more aware of what is dangerous for the country.

I consider it necessary to mention on this occasion that coup d'etats will not help us pull our country forward. Anyone heading the government after a military coup will have the same problems: a strong opposition, discontent. This would make us go back many years, as force would prevail over intelligence. Thus, we Hondurans should realize every that we must support the people's will. If politicians signed such a pact, the results are there. Our government has been internationally recognized, and it has been recognized that our country has made firm steps toward democracy. What we must do now in order to consolidate that system is to implement all those projects that will benefit our country's development.

[Wong] Now, you have said that your resignation is because of simple reasons.

[Lopez Reyes] Yes, sir.

[Wong] I would like to ask you, General, has the presence of politicians such as President of Congress Carlos Montoya, who strongly accused military chiefs of being involved in scandalous actions such as the handling of foreign exchange at the Central Bank, bothered the Honduran Armed Forces?

[Lopez Reyes] Well, we sent a letter to Carlos Montoya, to which he replied in a satisfactory manner. I repeat, dialogue has always been the best way to resolve this kind of problem. Although the matter was not handled in a personal manner, we are convinced that there is willingness to get closer to the military institution, to get more acquainted with each one of its officers and soldiers, as we are also common citizens. If there was any disharmony at any time, it was temporary. We are all Hondurans, and we believe that there are much more serious problems requiring our attention, instead of getting into a polemic that could result in hard feelings.

[Wong] In this sense, could we say that the Armed Forces absolved Carlos Montoya of his statement?

[Lopez Reyes] Well, I would say that we cannot absolve anyone, as we are also Christians, and we believe that the only one to forgive is God. What really happened was that we did not want to further deteriorate Honduras' image and enter into a major conflict between someone who was a possible future president of Congress at that time and the Armed Forces. So, we were satisfied with his reply, and therefore the problem was resolved.

[Wong] The reason we assumed the Army forgave Carlos Montoya is the fact that it proposed Colonel Castro Arita -- who is Carlos Montoya's brother-in-law, and who was also a controversial person... [corrects himself] who took part in the recent controversy, when it was said that Montoya was not eligible for a deputy seat -- to head the Presidential Honor Guard.

[Lopez Reyes] Well, that is true. We sent our recommendation to the constitutional president, who selected the future defense minister, as well as the future head of the Presidential Staff. In this sense, the president selects someone with whom he believes he can work in harmony.

[Wong] Yes, General. However, the fact that Col Castro Arita was recommended for that position gave us the impression that the Army forgave Deputy Montoya.

[Lopez Reyes] Yes, but the selection was based on seniority. If you have an opportunity to review the list we sent to President Azcona, you will see that it was based on seniority. We could not list the names indiscriminately, and thus we considered the seniority. I repeat, the president is entitled to select those officers who will accompany him during his presidential term.

[Wong] One last question, General, and thank you for your kindness in answering us. Did you submit an ordinary or irrevocable resignation? If it was not irrevocable, there is the possibility that the Congress may ratify you, which would practically give you unanimous and majority support, although your time in the Armed Forces will end early next year, I believe. Please tell us, was your resignation ordinary or irrevocable?

[Lopez Reyes] Well, I am only presenting my ordinary resignation, because this is a process that is based on our laws. I submit my resignation to the Superior Council, which then analyzes and discusses it, and then sends it to the National Congress.

[Wong] What would happen if you are ratified?

[Lopez Reyes] Well, I would have to discuss this over with my comrades-in-arms as well as with the Congress itself because, I repeat, my reasons are strictly personal. I take this opportunity to tell the people that there is nothing to worry about, as there is no crisis in the Armed Forces. It is only that I want to rest.

[Wong] Well, the truth is that you have become a polemical person, even in sports, in which you participate as a baseball leader, as that is your favorite sport.

[Lopez Reyes] Yes, I will have more time for that now.

[Wong, laughing] On what team are you playing, General?

[Lopez Reyes] With the Air Force, as usual. I only play softball now.

[Wong] Very well. Thank you very much, General. You have been very kind in granting us this interview.

[Lopez Reyes] Thank you, also.

Urged To Withdraw Resignation

PA301710 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1625 GMT 30 Jan 86

[By Armando Cerrato]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 30 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Andres Victor Artiles, secretary general of the Confederation of Honduran Workers, today asked General Walter Lopez, commander of the Armed Forces, not to resign. This morning, Gen Lopez surprised the entire country with the announcement that he will resign in the next few hours because of personal reasons and because he is tired.

"The working class will meet, and has already asked Gen Lopez for an appointment to learn of the true motives for his resignation. In addition, we will personally ask him to remain in his post until the term stated by the law expires," Artiles said. The union leader indicated that "we will probably present a written petition to the National Congress so that it will not accept Gen Lopez' resignation."

He also said "the workers have found in the Armed Forces commander an intelligent interlocutor, with patriotic feelings, and good intentions for this country and its inhabitants; for this reason we are surprised and shocked by this decision to resign." The labor leader said "the virtues of the Armed Forces chief and his great vision of the people's needs have made possible the democratic consolidation and civilian transfer of power." He also recalled that "by initiative of the Army, headed by Lopez, the workers presented political alternatives backed by the Catholic Church that resulted in the resolution of the political crisis that threatened to unleash a civil war in the country."

Jorge Maradiaga, member of the Liberal Party and vice president of the congress, said the "congress will probably meet in emergency session because its next session was scheduled for 12 February." He also said he personally believes that "Lopez' resignation must be thoroughly analyzed by Congress and that if it is not submitted in an irrevocable manner, it should be rejected, and a means to convince him to stay should be found." Maradiaga noted that it was suggested that the chief of the Armed Forces should "rest and take a vacation like any other human being devoted intensely to his work so he can get rid of all the pressures he has been subjected to."

Analysts and people who called Tegucigalpa radio stations today after the resignation announcement said there is the impression that "big things within the Army are prompting Lopez to resign." Articles even said "he should not resign even if there are great pressures on him from his comrades-in-arms, because he must believe that he has acted professionally and patriotically for the country and for the benefit of the entire nation. If he wants a vacation, it could be granted him so he can rest."

Lopez ruled out what was originally said early today. It was reported that he "would resign because he discovered a lack of discipline, loyalty, and professionalism, as well as corruption in ranking officers." "This is not true," he said, "I am leaving because I am tired and because of personal reasons. I will continue talks with my comrades-in-arms for 2 more days. I am willing to help them once I have retired." He also said the Army is united, cohesive, and willing to meet its professional and constitutional duties.

Withdraws Resignation

PA311258 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1221 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Interview with General Walter Lopez Reyes, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by unidentified journalist on 30 January; recorded -- monitored in progress]

[Text] [Reporter] ...it has been said that your differences are with the fifth graduating class of officers. Is this true?

[Lopez Reyes] No, no way, None of the graduating classes have had big disputes. It is true that there are differences of opinions, but they are not so deep as to say that one or another graduating class has differences with each other or that one class wants to impose its view. That is not true.

[Reporter] I want to tell you that we are very happy you will continue to be commander in chief of the Armed Forces because you have established a new philosophy, a new democratic spirit in the military institution. We believe that under your leadership the Armed Forces will always walk side-by-side with the Honduran people. Do you have anything to add, Gen Lopez Reyes?

[Lopez Reyes] Thank you for your kind words. Believe me that they encourage us to continue with our attitude and rectitude. We will always be ready to defend our homeland's interests and will be alongside the people to defend their interests.

[Reporter] You will definitely not resign and will continue until January 1987?

[Lopez Reyes] Yes, if God permits.

[Reporter] Thank you, general, and excuse us for any inconvenience.

[Lopez Reyes] That is okay, I am at your service.

[Reporter] Good night.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE ON NICARAGUAN ATTACKS

PA310355 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 30 Jan 86 p 30

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa dated 29 January]

[Text] Official Communique

The systematic Sandinist aggressions against Honduras continue to cost us many innocent Hondurans' lives. They attack, steal, loot, and murder within our territory with the aim of provoking the Armed Forces so that these actions will involve the whole nation in a war without limits, with the aim of expanding the communist system throughout all Central Amreica.

The Sandinist commanders have launched a series of attacks on Honduran towns in their efforts to expand communism, using different types of weapons under the pretext that they went to exterminate the subversive groups struggling to oust the regime.

These types of actions prove to the Honduran people that the Sandinist commanders emphasize terrorist actions on one hand while advocating peace on the other and trying to make the world believe that their terrorist acts are justifiable. However, in this case, the death of two innocent children and the critical condition of two others, who will be maimed for life, refute the commanders' boasts that they are defending a revolution that is rejected by the democratic world.

The picture we include are quite eloquent and show the Honduran people the bodies of the two martyrs for peace: Gonzalo Javier Arce Varela and Sandra Yamileth Arce, 11 years of age and 10 years of age respectively, son and daughter of Audon Varela Rivera and Benita Arce Varela. They died tragically on Saturday, 25 January 1986, in the town of Palo Verde, El Triunfo jurisdiction, Choluteca Department, as a result of a criminal action perpetrated by members of the Sandinist People's Army.

Tegucigalpa, D.C., 29 January, 1986; Public Relations Directorate, Honduran Armed Forces

CABINET, GOVERNMENT AGENCY HEADS ASSUME OFFICE

PA302316 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Government functions returned to normal after several secretaries and deputy secretaries of state took their oaths of office yesterday. Other officials took office in the various independent and semi-independent government agencies. The new administration hopes to expedite the government program established for the 1986-90 term. The government officials who were sworn in pledged to move the country's development forward by promoting priority projects first.

The secretaries and deputy secretaries of state who have already assumed their positions are:

The secretary of state for the Presidency, Celeo Arias Moncada, and his deputy Ana Joaquina Rodas Baca; the secretary of state for government and justice, Raul Elvir Colindres, and his deputy Romualdo Bueso Penalba; the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Dr Carlos Lopez Contreras, and his deputy, Guillermo Caceres Pineda; the secretary of state for defense and public security, Colonel Luis Alonso Cardona Macias, and his deputy Cornelio Sanchez Sandoval; the Secretary of economy and

commerce, Reginaldo Panting Penalba; the deputy secretary for domestic trade affairs, Dario Humberto Hernandez; the secretary of state for public health and social aid, Dr Ruben Villeda Bermudez, and his deputy, Jose Trinidad Oqueli; the secretary of state for communications, public works and transport, Juan Fernando Lopez; the deputy secretary of state for public works, Bayardo Pagoaga; the deputy secretary of state for communications and transport, Alejandro Castro Ruiz; the secretary of state for natural resources, Rodrigo Castillo Aguilar; the deputy secretary of state for livestock, Jose Montenegro, the deputy secretary of state for agriculture, Luis Alonso Quezada; the secretary of state for labor and social security, Adalberto Discua Rodriguez, and his deputy, Neptali Montoya; the secretary of state for tourism and culture, Carlos Arturo Rendon, and his deputy Jaime Turcios; and the secretary of state for finance and public credit, Efrain Bu Giron. The deputy secretaries of state for revenue and public credit have not been appointed.

The following officials were also sworn in: The executive secretary of the Higher Council of Economic Planning, Consuplane, Francisco Figueroa, and his deputy, Rogelio Ortega; the executive director of the National Agrarian Institute, Mario Espinal; the secretary of state for public education, Elisa de Martines Pavetti; the executive president of the National Bank for Agrarian Development, Armando Erazo.

All these officials were sworn in yesterday.

The first meeting of President Jose Simeon Azcona Hoyo with the members of his cabinet will take place at the end of this week after each of the secretaries of state has familiarized himself with his new duties.

NICARAGUA

UNO'S CRUZ MEETS SHULTZ, DISCUSSES CONTRA AID

PA300421 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] According to counterrevolutionary leader Arturo Cruz, military aid to Somozist groups could total between $35 and $100 million in 1986. Cruz made this statement in Washington after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Cruz, together with two other members of the phantom group called Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, namely Adolfo Calero and Alfonso Robelo, met with Shultz for 45 minutes in State Department offices. During the meeting, they discussed an alleged program for a provisional government publicized by UNO last week in Caracas. The program was designed by Washington in an attempt to justify the $100 million in aid for the contras that will be requested from the U.S. Congress.

FDN'S BERMUDEZ ON OBSTACLES, STRATEGY FOR 1986

PA290437 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Jan 86 p 12

[By Oscar Leonardo Montalban]

[Text] Enrique Bermudez, commander in chief of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) Strategic Command, which is fighting to overthrow the Marxist regime of Managua, told us during an afternoon in December 1985: "We are prepared to win; the year 1986 will be a year of achievements and victories for us."

In a ramshackle barracks somewhere in Nicaragua surrounded by commanders and a number of fighters, Bermudez added: "We have overcome enormous obstacles this year, but if it is God's wish that our allies decide to deliver all the war equipment to us, we might be home in 1986."

Choosing his words carefully, the FDN rebel military chief said: "I must admit that in the whirlwind of a war no one can predict the future, because none of us will live forever but... we will return." "We have been fighting for the past 6 years, we are fighting in 11 of the 16 departments of our country, we are relentlessly advancing to the south, toward the San Juan River.... We are on our way to final victory...."

Bermudez is a calm man, not too fond of publicity, who accepts criticism and reacts rapidly. He said: "We are conducting a gradual war. In November we downed two Sandinist helicopers, an Mi-8 and an Mi-24. This really hurt them. The pilot and copilot were Cubans, and I am in no position to assure that the rest of the crew were not also Cubans." "This we can confirm because our troops have scanning equipment and it is not difficult to listen to the pilots conversations. Besides, we have intelligence services in every area where the enemy is operating. "

Let me explain, Bermudez added: "These two helicopters are not the first ones we have shot down; we have destroyed others, but it was not until today that we could confirm 100 percent the Cuban internationalists' presence in the Sandinist Army." "The bodies were taken to Apanas, where there is a hospital run by Cubans to take care of their wounded. They also have a morgue, where they prepare bodies."

"The helicopters were shot down with SAM-7 missiles," Bermudez disclosed, "which we were forced to obtain because the nine dictators have been acquiring sophisticated arms not known in Central America until now, such as the BM-21, a deadly weapon with which they have been mercilessly bombarding the civilian population."

He said that "if the Soviets delivered the Mi-24 to the Sandinists it was for a reason. They have not done this with other countries of the Communist bloc, except those where they have some strategic interest or where they seek to consolidate positions to carry out their expansionism."

Referring to the strategy and the present status of the war in Nicaragua, Commander Enrique Bermudez said: "First, let me tell you that all wars are not the same, and second, this war cannot be judged by the number of planes, helicopters, artillery, tanks or cannons, but by other vital, indispensable factors." "In order to win a guerrilla war, an insurrectional war, you must have the people's support. We have 85 percent of the Nicaraguan people's support and with this weapon on our side, it is going to be very difficult to defeat us."

On the other hand, Bermudez added: "It is obvious that there is internal unrest in Nicaragua and repression is carried out everywhere, in the economic, political, social and even religious sectors." "No one ignores," said Bermudez, "the pressures and persecutions that the Marxist regime of Managua is exerting on the religious organizations, not only against the Catholic Church but against Protestant pastors and other ministers of God."

"It acts in the same manner against peasants and ethnic groups, especially in semi-rural or mountainous zones where there are no newsmen and no one can complain." "They have murdered a lot of peasants, missionaries, and believers." "Entire Indian communities have been transferred to concentration camps.

Some were transferred because they did not accept the communist regime and others because they do not agree with their atheist ideas."

When asked about the political situation, the chief of the FDN Strategic Command said: "That is another war we are winning. At international forums the Sandinists have been accusing the United States of supplying us with deadly weapons, but that is false. For almost 2 years we have not received any support from the U.S. Government. It was not until now that we have received the humanitarian aid, consisting of clothing, food, and medicine, mainly for the families of the fighters. Our military supplies are obtained from other sources that believe in the FDN cause, which is the cause of the Nicaraguan people."

"Regarding Contadora and its peace efforts, I say it is praiseworthy. However, I believe I have read statements by one of the foreign ministers of the group who said that Contadora is dead, but no one dares bury it."

Finally, Commander Bermudez said: "I want to tell Nicaraguans, especially the freedom fighters representing the Nicaraguan people's rebellion, that it is a disgrace to have to accept oppressive, enslaving regimes. If such is the case, death is preferable."

"I think that our suffering people must understand that we are not only fighting against a well-armed pro-Soviet army, but against enormous obstacles such as logistics, political treachery, enemies, and disinformation."

POLICE SUSPEND PCDN MEETING ON CONSTITUTION

PA282200 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] According to the Sandinist police, the open meeting on the future constitution of Nicaragua organized by the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua [PCDN] in Catarina was suspended for lack of permission.

[Begin Clemente Guido recording] The Nicaraguan PCDN will vigorously protest the harmful interference of the Catarina authorities to prevent the celebration of an open meeting on the constitution here in this town. There was obvious obstruction on the part of the authorities, who demanded a permit to hold an indoor meeting. How are we to explain the changes to be made to the constitution and how are we going to explain the details of the new constitution or what the PCDN wants to insert into it if we are not allowed to get in touch with our masses? [end recording]

Clemente Guido said this is not an unusual measure. He added that some leaders of the Catarina police are always trying to hinder the work of the National Assembly.

COMMUNIQUE ON CUBA-USSR-ANGOLA TALKS REPORTED

FL301954 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] On 27 January 1986, talks between the USSR, Angola, and Cuba were held in Moscow. These talks dealt with certain international problems, especially the situation in southern Africa. We now offer you the tripartite communique issued after the meeting:

The parties stressed that to guarantee a substantial improvement in the international situation, it would be of decisive importance to carry out all the peace initiatives of the USSR directed at the United States, the other nuclear powers, and all the peoples of the world, the peace initiatives formulated by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his declaration of 15 January.

It is pointed out that adoption of the Soviet program for the complete destruction of all nuclear weapons, of the measures to reverse the arms race on earth and prevent it in space, and other proposals would guarantee a change from the present confrontation to international detente, and would contribute to the creation of conditions to eliminate hot spots in different regions of the world, and to strengthening peace.

At the same time, the parties stressed that the new Soviet proposals are based on the principal of identical security for all, do not harm any nation's interests, and are mutually beneficial. The participants in the meeting stated their firm opposition to making the carrying out of world disarmament depend on so-called regional conflicts, and their opposition to using regional conflicts -- in accordance with the United States' new globalism concept -- to interfere in sovereign states and worsen the East-West confrontation.

Simultaneously, the parties emphasized the fact that the conflicts in various regions of the world threaten to cause global war, for which reason it is important to try to eliminate them through collective efforts, and through negotiations based on justice, and with absolute respect for the independence and right to self-determination of the peoples.

Special attention was given to examination of the situation in southern Africa, where the racist South African regime, supported by imperialism, with the United States in first place, has created and maintains a hot spot of grave international tension. It was noted that, during the time that has passed since the last tripartite consultations held in March 1985, the situation in that region of the world has not improved. Quite the opposite. Confronting the growing opposition of most of the population in South Africa to the inhuman system of apartheid, and intensification of the struggle of the Namibian people for its [words indistinct], the racist Pretoria regime has carried out bloody repressive measures in its own country and has intensified its aggressive acts against the neighboring independent states.

With the complicity of the United States in constant acts of aggression against the sovereign state of Angola, including direct action in support of the puppet National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) group, the South African racists pursue the sinister goal of eliminating the progressive regime and converting this country into a vassal of South Africa and of international capital.

The United States is continuing its policy of constructive engagement with the apartheid regime, condemned not only by the international community but also by large portions of progressive U.S. public opinion.

During the conversations, the possible evolution of the Angolan situation was studied in light of the proposal of the U.S. lministration to provide help to UNITA, which would constitute an act of open interference in the internal matters of sovereign Angola.

Complying with the obligations contained in existing agreements, and in accordance with the resolutions approved in September and October 1985 by the UN Security Council, the USSR and Cuba call for a complete end to the aggressions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola, and reiterate their solidarity with the prolonged and unselfish struggle of the Angolan people in defense of their independent political option.

The Angolan side manifested its gratitude to the USSR and Cuba for the internationalist aid they give the People's Republic of Angola to throw back the foreign aggression.

The parties ratified the fact that the hot spot that exists in the cone of southern Africa must be liquidated by political means, with complete renunciation of the policy of state terrorism and of intervention in the internal affairs of the nations of the area.

In this process, the United Nations plays an important part, as do the Organization of African Unity and the Nonaligned Movement. It was stressed that correcting this situation and achieving peace in this African region can be guaranteed only if the Republic of South Africa and the governments that support it -- principally the United States -- are willing to take into consideration the interests of Angola and of the people of Namibia, whose sole legitimate representative is the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO].

The USSR, Angola, and Cuba emphatically condemn South Africa's attempt to legalize its colonial domination over Namibia through a puppet government. They believe that continued efforts are urgently needed, efforts aimed at achieving real progress in solving the Namibian problem through unconditional implementation of the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution 435 and other UN agreements that represent the only internationally recognized basis for its solution.

Likewise, they expressed their unvariable support for the fair struggle of the South African people under the leadership of the African National Congress, ANC, for dismantling the disgraceful apartheid regime. They also expressed their total solidarity with the demands of this heroic organization to lift the state of emergency, for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, for elimination of the so-called treason trials and other political actions against the anti-apartheid fighters, for the ending of repression against Winnie Mandela and other patriots, for a lifting of the ban on the ANC, and for withdrawal of the Army and police from black townships.

The platform proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of Angola in September 1984, and the subsequent additions to it, which are universally recognized, continue to be a fair foundation to achieving a total agreement that would guarantee Namibia's independence, peace, and security in southwest Africa.

The Angolan Government's goodwill and readiness to resolve conflict in the region by establishing a dialogue based on a constructive and honorable foundation aimed at achieving peace and stability in southwest Africa were once more reasserted in the statements of Angolan People's Republic's President Jose Eduardo dos Santos made on 8 and 23 January. These statements indicate that as long as the apartheid regime exists in South Africa, it will constitute a serious threat to Angola and the rest of the independent southern African countries.

The parties emphasized that the Soviet-Angolan-Cuban talks held in Moscow to continue coordinating the actions of the three countries in defense of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Angola and for a fair and equal settlement in southern Africa, were opportune and useful.

The exchange of views was held in a friendly, fraternal atmosphere of complete understanding. Taking part in the consultations were, on the Soviet side, Eduard Shevardnadze, CPSU Politburo member and foreign minister; Boris Ponomarev, candidate Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Sokolov, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and USSR defense minister; Oleg Rakmanin, CPSU Central Committee member and first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, first deputy defense minister of the USSR and chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces; L. Ilichev, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and USSR deputy foreign minister; R. Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section; and A. Kalinin, USSR ambassador to Angola.

For the Angolan side participants were: Jose Maria Tonha (Pedale), member of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angolan defense minister; Alexandre Rodriguez (Quito), member of the MPLA-Labor Party and Angolan interior minister; (Lopo) do Nascimento, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Angolan minister of planning; Pedro (Bengoliba Fogeton), member of the Angolan General Staff Operations Directorate; and (Iko Kareyrra) candidate member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and commander of the Angolan Air Force and Air Defense.

On the Cuban side, participants were: Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]; Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee Secretariat; Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first deputy minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, chief of the General Staff, and PCC Central Committee member; Rodolfo Puentes Ferro, PCC Central Committee alternate member and ambassador to Angola; and Alcibiades Hidalgo, senior official of the PCC Central Committee.

SHULTZ, REAGAN MEETINGS WITH ANGOLAN REBEL SCORED

Savimbi U.S. 'Puppet'

FL302145 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Nicaragua has strongly protested U.S. support of the Nicaraguan democratic forces' counterrevolutionary organization. The Sandinist Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the White House condemning the recent meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and counterrevolutionary leaders. In the meeting, Shultz, in the name of the U.S. Government, expressed his total support for the group and said Washington will not renew bilateral talks with Nicaragua.

U.S. support of counterrevolutionary bands was evidenced by meetings with Jonas Savimbi, leader of the subversive Angolan group UNITA [the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. Shultz has already met with Savimbi, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan will meet today with Savimbi, who is a puppet for U.S. and South African interests.

The meeting between the highest U.S. hierarchy and Savimbi contrasts with the White House's indifference to the presence in the United States of South African Bishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, who criticizes the repression of Pretoria's racist regime, which receives the assistance of the United States.

$300 Million Asked for Savimbi

FL310034 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has promised Angolan counterrevolutionary Jonas Savimbi that Washington will increase contributions financing the activities of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. Reagan is pressuring Congress to approve $300 million in additional financing for Angolan counterrevolutionary groups.

Reagan met today with Savimbi, who has also met with the secretaries of state and defense. Savimbi's welcome to the United States contrasts with that given a few weeks ago to Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu. Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Price winner and defender of the rights of South African people, did not meet with any high-level White House officials.

Threat to Frontline Nations

FL310221 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has promised Angolan counterrevolutionary Jonas Savimbi to provide more aid for the bands working against Angola. This support is a real threat, not only to Angola, but to all the frontline countries and for the independence of Namibia, which is legally occupied by South Africa.

CHALLENGER ACCIDENT 'WARNS AGAINST STAR WARS"

FL310210 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Expecting to find something that would determine the cause of the Challenger disaster, a crew of hundreds aboard a U.S. naval aircraft carrier continued today the famous search for fragments. All this is being done to find the truth about the accident. Meanwhile, this year's flight programs have been suspended for the space vehicles Colombia, Discovery, and Atlantis.

According to specialists, Challenger's explosion is a warning against the so-called Star Wars program, because if weapons had already been in the cosmos, the space vehicle's computers would have activated them.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ARRIVE FOR COMMUNIST CONGRESS

Southern Africans Arrive

FL301602 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1516 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Invited to the Cuban Communists' greatest event, a delegation of the South African Communist Party has arrived in our country headed by (James Steward), National Executive Committee member, and (John Kadinek), Politburo member. Also arriving in our country was Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, the SWAPO [South West African People's Organization of Namibia] secretary general, who is heading a delegation. The visitors were welcomed at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport by Alternate Politburo Members Vilma Espin and Jesus Montane. Central Committee members Division General Raul Menendez Tomassevich and Brigadier General Luis Felipe Denis were also present at the Havana airport.

Uruguay CP Head Arrives

FL301520 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] The secretary general of the Uruguayan Communist Party, Rodney Arismendi, has arrived in Cuba to attend the Third Congress of the Communist Pary of Cuba as a guest.

Representatives of three Bolivian political organizations who have been invited to attend the Third Party Congress have also arrived in Havana.

PRESIDENT GRANTS POLICE RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS

FL302110 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Yesterday, President Salvador Jorge Blanco granted retirement to National Police Generals Carlos Antonio Ventura (civilian) and Dario Veras Grullon. The order is included in the Decree No 66-86 issued by the executive branch. Both generals were granted retirement for years of service with rights to a pension. With the retirement of Ventura (civilian) and Veras Grullon, the number of generals granted retirement by President Jorge Blanco since 16 August, 1982 amounts to 59.

With the same decree, the president promoted National Police Colonels Armando Garcia Fernandez and Rene Luna Perez to the rank of brigadier general. Likewise, Jorge Blanco promoted Majors William Lara Espinal and Rafael Del Socorro Payan to the rank of colonels. The promoted officials were sworn in yesterday in a ceremony held in the National Palace by President Jorge Blanco. Police Chief Major General Juan Rene Rodriguez Ortiz and Presidency Administrative Secretary Rafael Flores Lestrella were present at the ceremony.

PRICE STABILIZATION DIRECTOR RESIGNS 29 JANUARY

FL302332 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Former executive director of the Price Stabilization Institute [Inespre] Engineer Jose (Michelen) confirmed today that he will completely dedicate himself to political activities. During a press conference he granted today, (Michelen) said he will try to protect members who aspire to elected posts in 1986 from the Jorge Blanco tendency.

(Michelen) resigned yesterday from Inespre and President Salvador Jorge Blanco immediately replaced him with Mrs Rosa Arvelo de Mecina.

MAJLUTA APPOINTED PRD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA280204 Paris AFP in Spanish 0057 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 Jan (AFP) -- Senate President Jacobo Majluta, who will be the presidential candidate for the government's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD, Social Democratic), was the surprise announcement made today by President Salvador Jorge Blanco.

President Jorge Blanco revealed that a "unity pact" between Majluta and the other candidate, Santo Domingo Mayor Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, ended the PRD's 63-day crisis concerning the designation of its presidential candidate.

The Dominican elections are scheduled for 16 May.

GRENADA

CUBAN-EDUCATED STUDENTS CLAIM DISCRIMINATION

FL310058 Bridgetown CANA in English 2226 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] St Georges, Jan 30, CANA -- Grenada's Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell has expressed surprise at a recent statement by 32 nationals who studied in Cuba that they were being discriminated against.

The students accused the Grenada Government of denying them appropriate jobs, saying that only two of them were employed as professionals while seven others are being paid salaries not in keeping with their qualifications.

In the strongly worded statement, the graduates stated that contrary to reports appearing in the local media they are a group of serious, honest, and patriotic Grenadians and not time bombs, vicious points of infection, or saboteurs.

Mitchell said that his ministry alone was able to get the Cabinet to approve employment for seven of the engineers and that three of them were already working at the time of the statement. ...I think there must have been some maliciousness as far as the report is concerned, he told CANA.

The students were sent on scholarships to Cuba during the 1979-80 leftist rule which folded when American troops stormed the island following the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in a bloody Army coup.

After the invasion, Governor General Sir Paul Scoon ordered all Grenadians in Havana to return home with a view to seeking alternative studies in Western universities but the 32 did not comply.

Mitchell stated that the report issued by the students would no doubt convince those Grenadians who had expressed concern about their political leanings. He also said that some of the students would have to await the results of government's approach to the University of the West Indies (UWI) to access their Cuban qualifications.

I think the students must understand that the government has an obligation to all our people and not just to a particular group of students, and I think that's the most important thing they have to understand, he added.

HAITI

SYLVIO CLAUDE CALLS FOR 'CIVILIAN-MILITARY JUNTA'

NC301020 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Jan 30 (AFP) -- Sylvio Claude, a leading opponent of President Jean-Claude Duvalier, has called for the dissolution of Haiti's parliament, the formation of a "civilian-military junta" and democratic presidential elections, in a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Claude, leader of Haiti's Christian Democratic Party, made his call after an estimated 40,000 people took to the streets of this north coast city Wednesday in a protest against President Duvalier's regime.

Mr. Claude, who was speaking in the capital Port-Au-Prince, said that the junta would be formed in the first instance, then replaced by a provisional government charged with organizing democratic presidential elections. Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, has been swept with a wave of protests since four student protestors were killed by police in Gonaives, the country's fourth largest town, on November 28.

Reliable sources said here today that the homes of several members of the country's notorious militia, Ton Tons-Macoutes, had been wrecked by demonstrators late Wednesday. A food depot of the U.S. charity organization CARE -- Christian American Relief Effort -- was sacked by demonstrators, and windows were smashed at a business owned by President Duvalier's father-in-law Ernest Bennett.

FIVE PERSONS KILLED LOOTING IN CAP-HAITIEN

PA301923 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1953 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 30 Jan (DPA) -- Five persons were killed in the city of Cap-Haitien, the second largest city in Haiti, in the looting of a grocery store, the government reported today.

An Interior Ministry communique announced that the five persons died from asphyxiation during the looting and acts of vandalism "which occurred in an establishment in the city."

According to Interior Minister Pierre Merceron, similar lootings occurred in the southern part of the country. "The government instructed law enforcement forces to take whatever measures were necessary to guarantee the security of the state and protect lives, establishments, and public peace."

Businesses in the cities of Cap-Haitien and Gonaives remained closed, according to reports received from both cities. Meanwhile, there has been no other news of possible new casualties in the southern part of the country.

In Cap-Haitien a crowd broke the showcase windows of the Lada/Niva farm vehicle exhibition owned by Ernest Bennett, father-in-law of President Jean Claude Duvalier.

GENERAL STRIKE CALLED FOR 12-20 FEBRUARY

FL302108 Bridgetown CANA in English 2047 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Jan 30, CANA-REUTER -- Haiti's bustling, impoverished capital, Port-au-Prince, continued life as normal today, but several provincial towns remained paralyzed by strikes in protest against the leadership of long-time President Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Phone communications with outlying towns were difficult but there were no early reports today of major anti-Duvalier demonstrations, after a riot last night in the northern town of Cap Haitien, in which peasants and slum dwellers stormed and looted a warehouse full of U.S.-donated cooking oil.

Troops at first tried to stop the looting, but did not open fire and eventually settled for trying to prevent the crowd from trampling each other as they fled with huge cannisters of oil and loaded wheat sacks onto wheelbarrels.

There were no staffers in the depot of the aid organization CARE, run by Haitians, when the looters broke in at nightfall.

Most American and other tourists have pulled out of Cap Haitien, but a few remain, including a group of 18 Protestant church-aid workers, who could be heard singing such hymns as How Great Thou Art on a hillside hotel terrace last night as the looting was going on about a mile away.

The capital, crammed with a million people, went on as normal, but political tracts urging a February 12-20 general strike, in the hope of overthrowing Duvalier, were beginning to circulate.

Armed guards in sentry boxes around the white-painted Presidential Palace looked relaxed and no troop units were visible in the vicinity. There was no indication as to whether Duvalier remained in the palace. He has not been seen for a few days.

He has rarely left the country during his 15 years of leadership, but until recently was seen regularly speeding through the capital between his various homes.

Residents say he often drives himself, usually in expensive cars, while passing citizens or those sitting outside their slums barely bat an eyelid.

Some say he constantly exchanges his cars and has a huge collection. If you see him pass a thousand times, you see him in a thousand different cars, a taxi driver told foreign reporters.

Countryside today were relaxed, [as received] but the ragtag militiamen of the so-called Ton-Tons Macoutes volunteers, were noticeably out of sight.

Anti-Duvalier protesters in the towns of Cap Haitien, Gonaives, Les Cayes, Jeremie, and Jacmel have been strong in their verbal attacks on the militia, while often making a point of praising the army. Many feel an army takeover would be the most likely scenario if the protest movement forced Duvalier to leave the country.

Strikes were reported continuing in Cap Haitien, Gonaives, and Les Cayes today but peasants who literally live from day-to-day in this impoverished Caribbean nation, still gave an air of life to the towns as they carted their sugar cane or bananas to central markets.

PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S RESIGNATION RUMORED

LD310929 Paris International Service in French 0900 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Rumors from Haiti say that President Duvalier has fallen. Jean-Pierre Bory reports:

As you know there have been very serious disturbances in Haiti for several weeks. It is now 0300 in Haiti. Haitian television is continuing with its programs. Normally, Haiti television ends its program around midnight, but it is 0300, the television is continuing with its programs, and is announcing that a bulletin, a communique, is to be broadcast in the next few minutes. Rumors report the resignation of Jean-Claude Duvalier following pressure from the masses, from the demonstrations by the destitute people of Haiti, the unfortunate people who live in shantytowns, and also under pressure from the Army.

Ten to 15 days ago a similar rumor spread around Haitian circles abroad, announcing in the same way that Jean-Claude Duvalier would appear on television to announce his resignation. So we are awaiting developments, we are waiting for a confirmation of his resignation. I will keep you informed of developments.

State of Siege Expected

NC311109 Paris AFP in English 1057 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince Jan 31 (AFP) -- Haiti's embattled President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier, is expected to declare a state of siege here today in a bid to crush a nation-wide revolt against his family's 28-year rule, according to a reliable source.

A third of the members of the 58-member parliament earlier assembled for a hastily called special sitting just after midnight but four hours later had not begun the session, apparently due to disagreement over the measure amongst top government officials.

Interior and Defence Minister General Pierre [as received] Merceron, and hard-line Information Minister Adrien Raymond, then left for the palace for talks with the 34-year-old president, who was earlier rumoured to have fled the country under cover of darkness with his entourage, or to have been overthrown by the Army.

The state of siege was to be presented to the rubber-stamp assembly by the two ministers along with Justice Minister Jean Vanda, the source said.

Tens of thousands of anti-government demonstrators cut the country's main highway Thursday, building scores of barricades with rocks, burning tyres and trees, while others ransacked government buildings in many of the country's main towns.

State of Siege Approved

PA311223 Paris AFP in Spanish 1120 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 31 Jan (AFP) -- The Haitian Parliament today approved the declaration of the state of siege for 30 days proposed by lifetime President Jean-Claude Duvalier. The state of siege will have to be officially declared in the coming hours.

MEDIA SILENT; U.S. SUSPENDS PART OF FINANCIAL AID

LD311201 Paris International Service in French 1100 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] The situation is confused, and there are rumors of a military coup in Haiti. It is 0600 local time, and the radio and television remain hopelessly silent. Yesterday the United States suspended half of its financial aid to Haiti because of human rights' violations.

JAMAICA

NATION CONTINUES TO REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION

FL302006 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Kingston, Jan 30, CANA -- Jamaica has dramatically reduced its oil consumption in the last dozen years, according to Energy Minister Hugh Hart.

The official JAMPRESS news agency quoted Hart as telling college students that Jamaica's performance since the oil crisis of 1973 had in fact been exceptional compared with other developing countries.

In that year, the domestic sector... peaked at about 9.5 million barrels, Hart said. It has since declined to a little over seven million barrels and held at that level in 1985.

The sector does not include the oil used in the bauxite/alumina industry.

Last year the total oil consumption here, including that used by the bauxite sector, was 8.9 million barrels, but this was at a time when several key bauxite installations were closed or operating well below capacity.

Total oil consumption in 1973 was 20 million barrels.

Hart said Jamaica's performance in energy saving closely approximated the achievements of the industrialised world. Since price increases are happily out of the question in today's market of declining world oil prices, the greatest opportunity for energy conservation in Jamaica today lies in technical improvement, he said.

Government, with local and American funding, operates a programme for public and private sector energy audits and also provides under the scheme loans for retrofitting.

The Jamaican bauxite industry, at one point the most energy inefficient in the world, has since the late 1970's been working to reduce oil bills to improve competitivity in a soft market. The government has been encouraging them to turn to coal as an energy source.

Jamaica is over 90 per cent dependent on imported oil for its energy and apart from coal conversion has been seeking to develop local resources such as its limited hydro-power capacity, and peat.

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

PRIME MINISTER WANTS TO DISCUSS TRADE WITH REAGAN

FL310108 Bridgetown CANA in English 2332 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Jan 30, CANA -- St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds has suggested that next month's meeting in Grenada between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Caribbean heads of government should focus on economic and trade issues.

A government statement said Dr Simmonds made the suggestion during discussions yesterday with Marc Carlyle, vice-consul at the U.S. Embassy in Antigua.

Carlyle Sought ideas from the prime minister on issues that should be raised at the meeting.

The discussions also covered a proposed visit by the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, scheduled for next month.

President Reagan will visit Grenada for four hours February 20 to attend a ceremony at a monument erected to honour 19 U.S. servicemen killed during the October 1983 U.S.-led military intervention that ousted a left-wing administration.

LATE REPORT: FURTHER EMERGENCY MEASURES IN HAITI

Duvalier Closes Airport

LD311341 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] In Haiti, where demonstrations against president-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier are increasing, the Parliament has just approved the introduction of a state of siege for a period of 30 days. The decree will be promulgated in the next few hours. Meanwhile President Duvalier has ordered the closure of three radio stations as well as the international airport of Cap Haitien. Demonstrations are increasing in the country. There were even rumors of a coup d'etat but this is not the case.

Closes Radios, Bans Publications

PA311322 Paris AFP in Spanish 1256 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 31 Jan (AFP) -- The Haitian Government has closed Radio Soleil (Catholic), Radio Lumiere (Protestant), and Radio Cacique (privately owned) until further notice and banned all publications that could promote disorder.

This measure has been adopted in the framework of the state of siege decreed this morning once it was ratified in a Parliament session attended by only 29 of 58 deputies. Two voted against the state of siege and twenty-seven in favor.

According to Article 119 of the Constitution, the state of siege -- which suspends the right to meet and establishes press-censorship -- cannot last more than 30 days.

CONFLICTING REPORTS ON DUVALIER STATUS

PA311529 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1521 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 31 Jan (EFE) -- Haitian lifetime President Jean-Claude Duvalier was seen at 0930 local (1430 GMT) in a vehicle in downtown Port-au-Prince. The president will address the nation this afternoon, an official source added hours after the state of siege was decreed in Haiti.

U.S. White House spokesman Larry Speakes announced today that Duvalier's regime had fallen and that its leaders were preparing to leave the country and had turned over power to a civilian junta, according to reports from the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince.